

In his philanthropic and community activities, Ron applies the same attributes of tenacity and perseverance that have created countless successful ventures which have produced a rich blend of social institutions that serve to invigorate the Long Island community. As Past chairman of the Long Island Campaign Cabinet of UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, he oversaw an annual budget campaign that raised \$17,000,000. He is Vice-President of the Long Island Philharmonic as well as Treasurer and Board Member of the Long Island Association. In addition, he provides guidance and leadership to other major Long Island-based organizations that include the Long Island Better Business Bureau, the Nassau County Museum of Art, the Board of Directors of the Institute for Community Development and the Council of Overseers of the Tilles Center of C.W. Post College of Long Island University.

Ron's constant giving of himself to the community has blessed us with business and cultural opportunities. Moreover, in his role as Chairman of the Long Island Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, we have come to view a model of understanding and compassion that readily emerges as a yardstick by which all such future efforts must be measured. His unique talent for understanding and humanity have earned him great recognition and honor. Among these many accolades are the Long Island Distinguished Leadership Award, the Distinguished Community Service Award of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Frank Ornstein Human Relations Award of the American Jewish Committee.

Mr. Speaker, as Ron Cooper now looks toward retirement and happily spending those innumerable hours of leisure he has promised to his wife, Marcia, I ask my colleagues to join with me and rise to express their great admiration and joy for all he has done and all he will do.

#### INTRODUCTION OF TAX ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS ACT

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the "Tax Assistance for Children with Chronic Medical Conditions Act" which will enable the parents of children with ongoing medical conditions to participate in medical conferences that provide timely information for the treatment of their children's health.

I am delighted to have as original co-sponsors of this bill Representatives Waxman, Hilliard, Frost, Moran, Pelosi, Carson, Sandlin, Furse, Farr, Stark and McNulty.

This legislation will, at an extremely minimal cost, facilitate the ability of parents whose children have chronic medical conditions to attend conferences, meetings and conventions at which physicians and other health and service providers provide them important information not otherwise available to them. Under current

law, the expenses of attending such a conference is not deductible for a parent. Everyone else attending the meeting—the physicians, the vendors, the association members—can deduct the cost of travel and lodging except the parent and child who are directly affected.

There are many areas of this country where access to state-of-the-art treatment and diagnostic capabilities are simply not available to physicians or to patients. For that reason, organizations that work on behalf of those with chronic illnesses and other conditions hold annual or biennial conferences at which researchers, physicians, vendors of mechanical and other equipment and others provide their latest information for each other. Parents often are encouraged to attend these meetings with their children to learn about the latest treatment techniques. For many, this is their only capability to have access to this level of medical expertise, and we should encourage their ability to participate in such conferences.

My legislation would create a \$500 per year deduction for a parent and child to attend such conferences. Deductible expenses would include travel, lodging, registration and meals while attending the conference.

I would hope that Members will support enactment of this inexpensive but important provision that will benefit children with chronic medical conditions and improve both their medical treatment and their quality of life.

#### HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SHELLEY McPECK KELLY

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary constituent, Shelly McPeck Kelly. Shelly was tragically killed in a plane crash with Commerce Secretary Ron Brown in 1996. Shelly McPeck Kelly was an outstanding citizen who devoted a lifetime to helping those in her community and country, and she has been missed by all those who knew her.

Throughout her life, Shelly McPeck Kelly was a model citizen. She was loyal and devoted wife. As the proud parents of two children, she and her husband shared many wonderful memories. Shelly served faithfully in the United States Air Force as an airplane stewardess. Her hard work paid off by achieving the rank of Technical Sergeant. Shelly should also be commended for her service to the United States during the Bosnian Peacekeeping Operation.

On August 15, 1998, Shelly will be remembered by her family and friends as they plant a tree in her memory. I ask my colleagues to join the residents of Eastern Ohio and myself in remembering Shelly McPeck Kelly's courage, loyalty and service to her country.

MICHAEL BARSKI HONORED

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated community servant in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Michael P. Barski. Michael, who is eighty-seven years old, recently ended his tenth four-year term as Tax Collector of Conyngham Townships.

Michael Barski worked in the coal mines until he joined the U.S. Marines at the start of World War II. He returned to the mines following a tour of duty in Europe. Michael was first elected Tax Collector in 1957 and shortly thereafter began rising at dawn to do the bookkeeping, a habit he would keep for forty years. Rather than publishing office hours, Michael make himself available to all members of the community at all hours.

Mr. Speaker, Michael is also a devoted baseball fan and an ardent follower of the New York Yankees. He was a local umpire from 1949 until just a few years ago. He also was an active member of the St. Mary's Church Choir and a Quartermaster of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for twenty-five years.

Michael is the son of the late Adam and Catherine Barski and is eldest of eleven children. He and his wife, the former Catherine Novelli, will celebrate their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on September 29, 1998. They have two grown children and one granddaughter named Lydia. Their son Michael is an executive with a financial firm and their daughter Barbara works with the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

I am extremely proud to bring this extraordinary American's life to the attention of my colleagues. I join with his family, his many friends, and the community in wishing him a wonderful, well-deserved retirement from public service and my very best wishes for continued good health and happiness.

#### AID TO ISRAEL

#### HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, Iran test fired the Shihab-3 missile. Intelligence estimates by the CIA and the Israelis proved to be correct. This missile will likely have a range of 930 miles putting Israel's security in jeopardy. But this is not an issue for our closest friend in the Middle East, this is an American issue because it affects global security and our thousands of troops that are based in that critical region. Iran's stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons and acquisitions of nuclear technology make the situation even more dire.

There are two ways for our government to prove its commitment to dealing with this critical issue. The first is sanctioning entities that aid in Iran's missile development. I, like a majority of the House, cosponsored the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act (IMPSA), and it passed this body 392 to 22. Last week the President followed Congress' lead and strengthened an existing executive order by

placing sanctions on 7 Russian entities. We must keep a close watch on this and remain vigilant on the issue of Iran's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the weapons to deliver them. President Clinton will be traveling to Russia in September, and if the legislation is still needed, we should bring up IMPSA for veto override.

Another way to counter the Iranian threat is by strengthening our closest ally and outpost in the region. In September, when we return to Washington, we will vote on the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill which contain Israel's annual aid package. I have voted for this bill in the past because I believe that foreign aid, when used wisely, is an important instrument in American foreign policy.

This year, I again intend to vote for aid for Israel, and I want to draw special attention to what makes this bill so special and historic. Based upon Prime Minister Netanyahu's pledge to a joint meeting of Congress two years ago, Israel has started to reduce its request for aid. Imagine an aid-receiving nation saying it does not need as much money—well it's happening this year.

Israel has made dramatic economic strides over the past two decades including the privatization of most of its industries. As a friend and supporter, the United States helped in Israel's economic gains. Now Israel is telling us that they feel comfortable phasing out all of their economic aid over a ten year period. However, based upon the continued threats in the region like Iran, Israel does need continuing military assistance which I will continue to support. I am also pleased a note that it looks as though this year's Foreign Operations Appropriations bill will hold spending level to that of Fiscal 1998.

#### IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

#### HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 28, 1998*

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a prayer I received from Chaplain James Paul Maxwell from Shawnee, Oklahoma. When Reverend Maxwell learned of the tragic deaths of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson he composed a beautiful prayer and asked that I share it with Congressman DELAY. After reading the prayer myself, I was so moved that I felt it would be a shame not to share this with the entire Congress so I therefore ask that it be made a part of the formal CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Dear Heavenly Father, Our Lord

We come to rejoice in Your gracious mercy and forgiveness of sins. Today we praise Your name for taking bad things and working them together for good.

Lord, we are grieved at the unnecessary death of two Washington, D.C. police officers. We come to You, leaning on Your love and Holy Spirit for patience, for strength, and for courage in the midst of great sorrow.

Dear Lord, we pray for the wives and children of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Officer John Gibson. And we pray for the family, friends, and colleagues of these men. We know their hurt and sorrow is almost unbearable. Lift these up with Your love and

healing and fill their loneliness magnified with grief with the presence of Your Spirit, and the Hope of Your gift of eternal life.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our Nation's congressional leaders and for our President. Give our nation's leaders Your wisdom that they will lean upon You for understanding and direction.

Lord we pray for all law-enforcement officers. Give them Your protective care and wisdom to respond in courage to perform their duties with firmness and with love. We long for the final victory over sin and evil and sorrow in this world and pray that You will give us determination and faith to take our stand for righteousness in our land. Thank You Lord Jesus for laying down Your life for us that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Lift us up through this darkness of evil that we might praise You in Jesus Name. Amen. Chaplain James Paul Maxwell, Shawnee Police Department, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

#### HONORING FRIENDS OF DIALYSIS DAY

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to declare a day of recognition on August 16, 1998, for the Friends of Dialysis Day. Everyone who participates in this important day is taking an essential step in helping to increase awareness of kidney disease and the need for organ donation. We all know that organ donations save lives, and increasing the number of donors throughout the country could potentially save the life a loved one for many families in our community and throughout the nation. I hope by declaring this Friends of Dialysis Day we can increase the willingness to donate organs by friends and members of our community.

The citizens of my district have participated in the Friends of Dialysis Day through an annual golf tournament. Participants, including patients, transplant recipients, medical staff, and family members, come together to raise money for this important cause. I urge other communities around the country to follow their example and help promote organ donation.

I commend all who have taken up this important fight and I hope we can all work together to continue to increase the awareness of kidney disease and the need for organ donations in our communities.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

#### HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, as we move into the 21st century, we must address the issue of Social Security. When I support privatizing the system which would allow Americans to more fully control the financial aspects of their retirement years, I realize we must have a national debate on the issue. In an effort to contribute to the discussion, I would recommend that my colleagues read this following column written by Jose Pinera as it appeared in the

European edition of the Wall Street Journal on June 25, 1998.

[From the Wall Street Journal Europe, June 25, 1998]

#### A WAY OUT OF EUROPE'S PENSION CRISIS

(By Jose Pinera)

On the wall of my office in Santiago, Chile, I have a map of the Americas with South America's sharp southern tip pointing toward the top and the United States and Canada at the bottom. Visitors often look puzzled, then exclaim, "Oh, they've hung your map upside down."

"No," I say, "It's just a different way of looking at the world." I often think of that map when I'm asked how Europe's crisis-riddled pension systems can be fixed.

Reform is possible, I reply, if people are willing to look at the world in a different way. Most importantly individuals will need more power to provide for their own retirement—and the government's role must be scaled back. We've accomplished this in Chile, and reform on the Chilean model is being seriously considered in the United States. In the meantime, the system has already spread to several other nations around the globe.

Beneath its veneer of egalitarianism, Europe's present pension systems are hideously unfair to tens of millions. Most young workers can look only to paying more and more to support those on retirement today—and then to receiving less and less when they themselves retire. Many under-40 members of today's working population may end up on income support to make ends meet in the next few decades, even though they pay up to 20% or more of their income in social security taxes.

#### SIMPLE YET RADICAL

Part of the problem is demographics. Europe's state pension systems are based on the so-called pay-as-you-go (Paygo) principle, meaning that the pension payroll taxes of today's working populations are passed through immediately to today's retirees. This system worked half-a-century ago in a world where there were seven or more workers for each retiree, who typically lived only a few years after he left the work force.

That world is gone. Thanks to a sharply declining birth rate and longer life expectancy, there is now an average of only four people of working age to support each pensioner in the 15 member states of the European Union. By 2040 there will be only two, and in some countries like Germany the ratio of workers to pensioners will be closer to one to one.

As a result, the financial burdens will become enormous. Pension contributions in Germany, for example, are now 20.3% of earnings, and the government has just increased VAT to finance the cost of pensions. And that is just the beginning. In France, pension contributions may have to double to 40% of earnings. But higher payroll taxes lead to even high unemployment and thus fewer contributions to the pension system.

At the same time, the payouts will be rimmed. European governments have already begun doing so, for example, by increasing the retirement age.

Meanwhile, every pressure group grants to cut the best deal for its members. Thus we see that Italian civil servants retire in their early 50s and that French truck drivers can end their working lives at 55. Does anyone seriously believe that such a system can survive in the 21st century?

Twenty years ago my country faced a similar crisis. Chile had created a state pension system in 1925 and by the 1970s it was on the brink of bankruptcy, life with special privileges and burdened by high payroll taxes.